

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01411 290134Z
ACTION CU-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
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UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1411

STATE FOR CU/EA; USIA FOR IOP/D

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: EVALUATION: VIOLIST RAPHAEL HILLYER

1. SINGAPORE AUDIENCES WERE TREATED TO A RARE EVENT LAST SATURDAY NIGHT - THE VIOLA CONCERT BY HILLYER. NOT MANY CAME - ABOUT 70 SERIOUS MUSIC LOVERS - AND MOST OF THEM WENT HOME SATISFIED BUT FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS LACKING. TECHNICALLY HILLYER WAS SUPERB BUT THERE WAS LITTLE EXCITEMENT IN HIS MUSIC. IT COULD BE THAT AT THE END OF A LONG TOUR HE WAS TIRED AND PLAYING IN AN ALMOST EMPTY HALL DID NOT HELP MUCH EITHER, BUT HE MERELY PLAYED AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING THE MUSIC. HE ALSO USED SCORES WHICH CREATED A BARRIER BETWEEN PERFORMER AND AUDIENCE.

2. AT THE WORKSHOP THAT MORNING, ONE VIOLIST AND THREE VIOLINISTS PLAYED FOR HIM. HE WAS FRANK WITHOUT BEING BRUTAL OR PATRONIZING. HE WANTED TO BE HELPFUL AND HE WAS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A VIOLA PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN PRESENTED IN SINGAPORE. A VISITING AMERICAN MUSIC PROFESSOR WHO ATTENDED THE
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CONCERT, SAID, A WHOLE EVENING OF SOLO VIOLA IS HARD TO TAKE AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT ATTRACT MUCH OF AN AUDIENCE ANYWHERE. WE AGREE. HOWEVER, 70 PEOPLE HERE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR A QUALITY PERFORMANCE, AND FOUR YOUNG SINGAPOREANS LEARNED A LOT FROM A MASTER.
HOLDRIDGE

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